

Message Text

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20

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SY-04 USSS-00 OMB-01 SAM-01 FBO-02 OPR-01 A-01

PER-01 /061 W

----- 021655

R 230800Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1025

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ZANZIBAR 0374

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI TZ

SUBJECT: MILITARY ALERT IN ZANZIBAR

1. IN FIRST SUCH OCCURRENCE SINCE OCTOBER 1973, TPDF/ZANZIBAR HELD
MILITARY ALERT AND EXERCISES DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS OF DECEMBER
23. FIRING OF SMALL ARMS BEGAN AT 0120 LOCAL, JOINED BY
HEAVIER WEAPONS INTERMITTENTLY UNTIL ABOUT 0300.

2. EXERCISE DISTURBED SLEEP BUT CAUGHT ALMOST NO ONE BY SURPRISE.
UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF PLANNED ALERT HAD BEEN CIRCULATING HERE
FOR AT LEAST A WEEK AND MILITARY PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT WERE IN
HIGHLY VISIBLE STATE OF MOVEMENT ALL DAY DEC. 22. THERE WAS
NO FORMAL NOTIFICATION FROM GOZ BUT ALL AMERICANS WERE ALERTED ON BASIS

OF UNCONFIRMED REPORTS. SITUATION FROM ALL INDICATIONS BACK TO
NORMAL THIS MORNING.

3. ONLY RATIONALE CONSULATE HAS RECEIVED FROM GOZ OFFICIALS
RE PURPOSE OF THESE PERIODIC NIGHT-TIME SHOOTOUTS IS
PREDICTABLE ONE OF MILITARY TRAINING AND PREPAREDNESS. THAT IS
UNDoubtedly PART OF EXPLANATION BUT SUCH EXERCISES MAY ALSO
SERVE PURPOSE OF REMINDING POPULACE OF GOZ'S MILITARY
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BACKING AND CAPABILITIES. SUCH REMINDERS ON LAST THREE

OCCASIONS HAVE COME JUST PRIOR TO IMPORTANT HOLIDAYS WHEN,
IT IS SURMISED, GOZ MAY CONSIDER THREAT OF DISSIDENT ACTIONS
TO BE RELATIVELY HIGHER. HOWEVER, CONSULATE HAS SEEN
NO INDICATIONS THAT GOZ IS IN ANY WAY THREATENED NOR, AS WAS
THE CASE LAST YEAR, ARE THERE ANY IDENTIFIABLE EXTERNAL IRRITANTS
SUCH AS "VOICE OF FREE ZANZIBAR" TO ACCOUNT FOR HEIGHTENED STATE
OF PREPAREDNESS.

MACFARLANE

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